and rapidly. It is today, I believe nearly 520 million. In Pakistan there is a similar population explosion. Pakistan's population today is said to be about 120 million. So, it is the sacred duty of every one of us in both countries to whom God has given opportunities to serve their countries in various vocations to see that we individually and collectively do everything we can to work for the economic prosperity, happiness and peace for these 640 million people of this vast sub-continent India-Pakistan. We are both inheriters of great legacies from the past. Our histories are bristling with very impressive past. Our respective culture, civilisation, philosophy, art are all supreme. The economic, industrial and man-power potentialities of India and Pakistan are very great. On both sides of our frontiers there are still vast numbers of men and women who have friends and relatives on the other side to talk to each other and to write to each other as of old. Since the gaining of independence by India and Pakistan, some millions of children have been born in both countries. Quite a large number of them are today graduates of our Universities. In the next 10 to 20 years, many many important offices will be held by these young men and women. They have not yet met each other in a friendly atmosphere as we of old had the opportunity to meet. Today it is very saddening to see these innocent youth and children growing up in an atmosphere of unfriendliness and hatred for each other. We have a duty to them to see that we create a climates today for them, so that they can meet each other as good friends and cultivate a friendship and understanding which will help them in later years when they hold responsible jobs in our two countries. We should not allow distrust in each other, not to permit our sons and daughters to go across the borders to meet their opposite numbers in schools and colleges, on play fields, in their homes and at such places to sow the seed

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of fellowship and understanding which will inevitably germinate to produce good blossom and fruit of understanding and friendship when they become full-fledged citizens of their respective lands in years to come. This is a MUST for us both.

On both sides we must fight tooth to nail against the ill effect of the comminal virus which is entering into the hearts of our two countries. This is our enemy No.1.

My many visits to Pakistan, particularly this last one with my distinguished friend Shri CC Desai, have convinced me that the present unfortunate misunderstanding between our two countries is due to our not meeting each other as we ought to. People here in India seem to think that Pakistan is lagging behind frightfully in regard to her development although she is making great progress all round -- and those in Pakistan do not seem to be aware that India's Five Year Plans are forging ahead successfully. It is time we realised that the sooner India and Pakistan shook hands the greater and the speedier will be the development of our two countries, because this friendship will bring us both to our senses not to spend so much money on our defences. Our respective defence budgets take up a large chunk of our limited financial resources which neither of us can afford to do. I know we have the major threat from China and unfortunately we have to be prepared to meet any unforseen and unhappy incidents between our country and Pakistan and indeed Pakistan has to be likewise prepared against us. This is understandable. But, if both countries could agree to shake hands tomorrow, our financial commitments for defence could be cut down considerably and the money so saved can be used more usefully and more correctly for the welfare of the millions in our two countries. The

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industrialists on both sides will be happy. Educationists will indeed welcome this shaking of hands because then they can have exchange of students and teachers to further the cause of education in both countries. Tourism and trade will receive a terrific boost up for the joy of the exchequres in both countries.

The present deadlock between us because of hatred for each other, one blaming the other for not playing up will not carry us anywhere. There is everything to lose and nothing to gain by our two countries continuing in their present attitude of unfriendliness towards each other.

Empires have come and empires have gone, Governments come and go, but the people will remain ever. India and Pakistan will certainly exist as India and Pakistan, as two great countries in the world, if tomorrow we both agree to settle all our disputes by friendly negotiations with a spirit of give more and take less, forgetting the past and with love and trust for each other. Let us both not continue to be "childish."

I make a special appeal to all the anti-social elements both in India and in Pakistan and others who spread communal hatred -- to please think of the future, think of our existence as free independent countries and desist from indulging in any act or acts which may create increasing misunderstanding and hatred between our two countries. If we delay in our becoming good friends -- others much stronger than us both, may be tempeted to "fish in our troubled waters", and perhaps the chances of our remaining as two sovereign independent countries may be seriously threatened. No true Indian and no true Pakistani would ever want this to happen.

Our respective religions teach us that we, Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, are all children of the same God -- although we worship Him in different ways. Let us keep up the practices and the sanctity of our religions by deciding to get together as friends soon. God will be happy if we do.

The combined economic, industrial and man-power strength of the 640 million virile people of friendly India and Pakistan will be formidable -- and their strength will certainly help all to work for peace for mankind in a truly democratic way -- and the world wants PEACE.

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